

Learning disability respite consultation stakeholder briefing

NHS South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG are launching a formal public consultation on proposed changes to respite services for people with learning disability, complex needs and/or autism.

The CCGs are proposing changes to the way bed-based respite services are delivered as well as:

- Changing the assessment and allocations process for services – focusing more on the needs of service users and their carers;
- Providing community based, flexible respite services such as gardening, doing a sport or another activity;
- Providing clinically-led support services.

The most significant change being proposed is to bed-based services. Currently, patients access services at 2 Bankfields Court in Middlesbrough, or Aysgarth in Stockton-on-Tees for their bed-based respite needs.

Currently, £1.5 million per year is spent on providing these services. The CCGs want to spend this money differently and in line with national direction, would like to move bed-based facilities away from a hospital setting as this isn't always the most appropriate place for service users and does not provide the best value for money.

The CCGs are consulting on two options for the future of the services.

Option One Buy a range of Bed Based Respite services to replace existing Bed Based Respite services. Change the assessment and allocations process, making it more needs led. Buy flexible community based respite services. Buy clinically led outreach support services.

Option Two Continue to buy Bed Based Respite services at 2 Bankfields Court and Aysgarth. Change the assessment and allocations process, making it more needs led. Buy flexible community based respite services.

*maintaining services at 2 Bankfields Court and Aysgarth means there will be flexible community based respite services as in Option 1 but they will be limited due to the funding needed to maintain the existing service.

The proposed changes will affect approximately 100 people from the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland areas.

The CCG is working with a voluntary sector partner to ensure people affected by any proposed changes have the opportunity to have their say and understand what it means to them through a series of facilitated discussions. Four, wider public meetings have also been arranged and are open to anyone to attend. Further information (Consultation narrative, easy read versions and FAQs) as well as details of the public meetings are available on the CCG websites: www.southteesccg.nhs.uk and www.hartlepoolandstocktonccg.nhs.uk.

The consultation will run for 10 weeks, from Monday 4 September to Friday 10 November 2017.